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**From:** Nicole Kroeber <nicolekroeber@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:37 AM  
**To:** INSTestimony  
**Subject:** HB 5443

Dear Sir/Madam -

I am writing to you regarding the Testimony concerning **HB 5443** which will be heard at a Public Hearing in Hartford this Thursday, March 4, 2016.

I would like to thank the Insurance Committee for the opportunity to express my support of this Act which will prohibit insurance companies from using dog breed as a factor in the cost or availability of insurance in Connecticut.

I am an avid dog lover and currently volunteer with a dog rescue. I have seen many pitt bulls and German Shepherds get overlooked by potential adopters for fear they would be dropped by their insurance companies. I have worked with adopters of Pitt Bulls specifically, to find apartments & insurance companies and know firsthand how difficult it can be.

If volunteers like myself are to continue our work of finding loving homes for these specific breeds, we must not discriminate against the breed regardless of the dog's size or sex, reported breed or mix of breeds. Breed alone is not predictive of the risk of aggressive behavior.

Instead we need to continue to focus on matching dogs to appropriate households, early socialization and appropriate training. Owner and community education are most effective in preventing dog bites.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Nicole Kroeber  
Waterbury Resident